

APPLICANT SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant's attorney, James Young, met with Examiner Keri Moss and Supervisory Examiner Jill Warden in Ms. Warden's office on January 18, 2007. The new method claims 40-49 were discussed in relation to the Freeman and Bevenot references. Ms. Ward indicated that claims 40-49 appeared to recite allowable subject matter over the prior art, but she recommended that some of the subject matter in claim 41 be amended into claim 40 to make it more clear that the sample chamber has to be placed on the weld. She also suggested limiting the time range of the example curves to a useful time in which the measurements would be meaningful, for example, compatible with the rationale indicated in the specification, page 17, lines 26-29.

The apparatus and other method claims were not discussed specifically, although Mr. Young stated that the applicant would probably want to retain at least some of the other method claims and to pursue apparatus claim coverage. Mr. Young agreed to discuss the Examiners' comments with the applicant and to take a close look at those other claims and possibly make further amendments in view of the interview. Examiner Warden concurred that the claims need not be limited to a specific hydrogen sensor apparatus or instrumentality.

REMARKS

Claim 40 is amended along the lines discussed at the interview to clarify that the sample chamber in that claim gets positioned on the weld and to limit the time period of the sample to a time where the measurements are useful, i.e., where the hydrogen evolution is still compatible with the sensitivity of the sensor so that the results are meaningful, as indicated in the specification, page 17, lines 26-29.

New claims 50-58 are similar to claims 40 and 42-49, but not limited to welds. As stated in the specification, page 20, lines 6-13, the method and apparatus is also useful for other applications, such as cannon barrels, pressurized containers, structural materials subject to pressurized hydrogen or chemical reactions, etc.